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fishing for black bass. Our exploration had, therefore, to be done on foot, and so we tramped for nearly one-half a mile through a wide swamp on the border of the pond. The plants noted and collected here were: *Sarracenia purpurea*, L., and *Prunus Virginiana*, L., (in fruit), *Potentilla fruticosa*, L., (in flower and abundant), *Parnassia Caroliniana*, Mx., and *Menyanthes trifoliata*, L., (leaves), *Rhynchospora capillacea*, Torr., *Carex flava*, L., (over ripe), *C. Œderi*, Ehrh., (in good condition) and *Bromus Kalmii*, Gray. Of these, two (*Rhynchospora capillacea*, Torr., and *Carex Œderi*, Ehrh.) are new to the flora of New Jersey. *Carex flava*, L., was collected years ago by the late Dr. A. P. Garber in Sussex County, where he also obtained *Lobelia Kalmii*, L., but the latter was sought for in vain. The results of my visit to the charming lakelet gave me so much pleasure that I mean to see more of it at an early day.

Easton, Penn. THOS. C. PORTER,

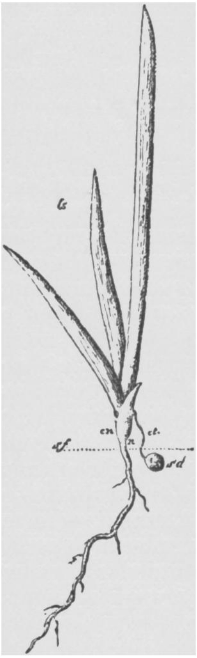
Sweet Cicely as a Bur.—Yesterday, while rambling among the shady ravines and hillsides of the Virginia shore of the Potomac, and immediately above this city, I observed that my clothing was bristling with slender, spindle-shaped burs, some of which made their presence felt by penetrating to my skin. Spanish needles! I said; but no, I had not seen the plant that day. A glance showed that they were the linear fruits of *Osmorrhiza longistylis*, very abundant there, its foliage wholly gone and leaving the dry branching stalks loaded with fruit which only needed to be touched to be shaken off, and through dense patches of which I had been walking. I had never been thus troubled before and my curiosity was excited, as I was not aware of this bur-like nature of the sweet cicely. It was useless to remove the burs till I had wholly left the place, when I made a business of it.

On carefully examining the seeds after I reached home I easily discovered the secret. The narrowed base of each fruit terminates in a sharp spinous point, and this is backwardly bearded with stiff, white bristles, closely simulating in form and function the grains of some Aristidas and other grasses. Wondering why I had not always known this, I at once turned to the books to see how the authors had described this peculiarity. To my great surprise I was unable to find any distinct mention in any work at my hand of this, certainly the most striking character of the genus. Bentham and Hooker's "Fructus * * * basi longius attenuatus; carpella * * * sursum ciliata" certainly does not describe it. Gray says: "Fruit * * * tapering downwards into a stalk like base * * * the carpels with *upwardly* bristly ribs;" while Chapman contents himself by merely mentioning the "carpels with bristly ribs." It seems clear that the function of these bristles and the narrowed base, as a means of distribution like other burs, cannot have been present to the minds of any of these authors, and I write this partly to ask where the discovery of this function in *Osmorrhiza* has been formally announced, if anywhere.

The barb being at the base of the seed, or at the point of attachment to the plant, it is necessary that it shall first drop off and depend upon finding the distributing agent in the course of its fall of two or three feet. It is clear that the device is a somewhat clumsy and ineffective one, but the habit of the plant to grow in dense patches renders the chances of success fully adequate to its needs, as any one may easily realize by walking through half an acre of it as I did.

Washington, D. C., August 16, 1884. LESTER F. WARD.

Germination of Pardanthus Chinensis.—Two years ago I described and figured what seemed to me a peculiar mode of germination of *Iris versicolor* (BULLETIN, Vol. ix., No. 6). The seeds of *Pardanthus Chinensis* seem to germinate in exactly the same manner, as shown by the annexed figure. The seed (*sd*) stays under the surface (*sf*) and sends out a long connective (*ct*), bearing the cotyledon (*cn*) from which are developed the root and the leaves (*ls*).



I must assume that in this case we have to deal with a normal mode of germination, for I found numerous seedlings in the open ground, around an old plant that had been freely fruiting the previous fall, and all of them showed the same peculiarity.

(*Pardanthus Chinensis* has been known for many years to grow abundantly near Richmond Hill, Long Island.)

Hoboken, July, 1884. JOS. SCHRENK.

Celtis occidentalis, L.—A specimen of this tree is growing on Main St., in West Springfield, which is notable for its great size as also for its perfect shape. The following careful measurements show that it is not the " small or middle-sized tree " as described in Gray's Manual: circumference four feet from the ground, twelve feet and three inches; height, seventy-five feet and six inches; spread of branches, eighty feet. This locality seems to be a favorable one for the development of this tree. Though only a few specimens have ever been known here, they have all reached a great size. One is standing in Springfield nearly as large as the one whose measurements are given above. Two formerly stood on Main Street, which were a little larger than either of these now standing. They received special mention in Emerson's book. They were still vigorous and sound when cut down a few years ago. The two large ones now standing are apparently in all the vigor of middle life, making considerable growth each year. It is to be hoped that they will be spared to reach their greatest possible development.

Springfield, Mass. GEO. W. PERRY.

Æcidium Jacobeæ, Grev.—This *Æcidium* is a true heterœcismal uredine as I have recently demonstrated, and is not, as has hitherto been supposed, connected either with *Puccinia glomerata* or *P. compositarum*. On the contrary, it has its teleutospores upon *Carex arenaria*. This *Puccinia* is quite different from *P. caricis*, from which it can be